

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Interventions by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in low-performing schools and districts

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, KRS 158.6455, KRS 158.782, 703 KAR 4:030, 703 KAR 5:120, KAR 5:130, PL 107-110 (NCLB)

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Since the implementation of the federal *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* legislation, Kentucky has had an accountability system of dual dimensions to meet both state and federal requirements and, consequently, also has dual systems of intervention. The Office of Leadership and School Improvement (OLSI), responsible for state interventions, and the Office of Special Instructional Services (OSIS), responsible for federal interventions, work very closely to align all of this work in schools and districts.

When NCLB scores are released August 1, 2006, some schools and districts will be classified in different categories that require consequences according to federal guidelines and as allowable under state law. For a listing and explanation of the federal consequences, see Attachment A and for an explanation of state consequences under the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), see Attachment B.

Low-Performing Districts

KDE will require all districts that reach the most severe category of federal consequences (Tier 3) to submit a proposal for improvement. The districts will then be distributed into three levels of intervention according to the evaluation of their proposals:

Network Assistance: Districts will select an external provider to support them in implementing improvement plans.

State Assistance: A KDE team will support the districts in implementing improvement plans.

Voluntary Partnership Assistance: A five-member team with representatives from KDE, the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS) and Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) will support the districts in implementing improvement plans.

Low-Performing Schools

When CATS scores are released September 15, all schools that fall below their assistance line will also be divided into 3 levels of assistance.

Level 3 schools, the lowest performing, will receive a Scholastic Audit and the services of a Kentucky Highly Skilled Educator (HSE) for the remainder of the biennium.

Level 2 and 1 schools will receive a Scholastic Review and may receive the services of a Highly Skilled Educator for the remainder of the biennium.

If a school that was in the Level 3 category for the 2004-2006 biennium repeats in Level 3 for 2006-2008, that school's district shall receive a scholastic audit also. If both the school and district audit teams believe that the school's governance should be turned over to the local superintendent or to an HSE, they will make said recommendation to the Commissioner for his action.

Policy Issue(s):

The federal interventions at the district level take effect for the first time this year.

This fall will also be the first time the policy that allows for change of governance at a low-performing school may take effect.

Measuring the impact of these new interventions will be important for future decisions on related policy.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Schools and districts must meet higher goals every year. KDE must support them in this system of continuous improvement and when they struggle, interventions such as these have proven effective in getting them back on track and serving all students at a higher level. Proficiency by 2014 is not possible without schools, districts and the state department working together.

Contact Persons:

Steve Schenck, Associate Commissioner
Office of Leadership and School Improvement
502-564-2116
Stephen.Schenck@education.ky.gov

Johnnie Grissom, Associate Commissioner
Office of Special Instructional Services
502-564-4970
Johnnie.Grissom@education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2006